(b) Kaiga Atomic Power Project 1 & 2 (2 x 220 MWe) and Madras Atomic power Station 1 & 2 (2 x 170 MWe) have already been set up in the Southern Electricity Region. The present allocation of power from these units for Tamil Nadu is 360 MWe. In addition, Kaiga 3 & 4 and KK 1 & 2 projects, on their completion, will supply power to the Southern Grid. Tamil Nadu will also have a share of power from these units. The share will be based on allocation by Ministry of Power and also the requirement of power firmed up with the beneficiary States in the region.

(c) No Complaints have been received about reactors being used in nuclear power plants.

New technology for VPTs in H.P.

1616. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any comprehensive scheme for the new technology options for Village Public Telephones in Himachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Wireless in Local Loop (WLL), C-DOT-TDMA/PMP and INMARSAT Satellite based terminals have already been deployed in Himachal Pradesh. All the remaining 278 uncovered villages are planned to be provided with VPTs on satellite media subject to availability of funds. Faulty Multi Access Radio Relay (MARR) VPTs are also planned to be replaced by WLL and landlines.

STD/lSD/lnternet/Fax facility at Gram Panchayats in H.P.

1617. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Gram Panchayats in Himachal Pradesh, district-wise, where STD/lSD/lnternet/Fax facilities etc., have been provided/are proposed to be provided during 2001 -2002 and 2002-2003; and

(b) the steps being taken or proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b)The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Floor rental of WLL phones

1618. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any representation has been received by the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India for cancellation/reduction in floor rental of WLL phones;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that instead of Rs. 140, Rs. 540 is being charged as floor rental; and

(d) what action Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (d) The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has reported that it received several representations for review of floor rental for handheld WLL phones. After the said review, TRAI has specified a monthly rental of Rs. 200/- for the same vide Telecommunication Tariff (22nd Amendment) Order dated 4th July 2002, which allows flexibility also to offer alternative packages in order to give benefits of technology and competition to subscribers in a deregulated environment.

VPTs by private operators

1619. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether private operators have shown any interest in providing telephones in remote areas of rural India;